WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A cake of glass fiber, comprising:

a glass fiber having a coating, the coating comprising a material that is applied to the glass fiber in liquid form and subsequently cured/dried, and a forming tube about which the glass fiber is wound to form the cake, wherein the forming tube comprises a tubular body wall having a fibrous structure that is pervious to vapors generated when the cake is treated to cure/dry the coating.

2. The cake of glass fiber of claim 1, wherein the fibrous material comprises natural fibers.

3. The cake of glass fiber of claim 2, wherein the fibrous material comprises paper.

4. The cake of glass fiber of claim 3, wherein the forming tube comprises a plurality of paperboard plies spirally wound one upon another about an axis of the forming tube and adhered together to form the tubular body wall, wherein at least an outermost one of the plies comprises paperboard treated with a sizing compound so as to render the paperboard substantially impervious to liquid coating composition applied to the glass fiber but pervious to vapors generated during curing/drying of the cake of glass fiber.

5. A glass forming tube about which newly formed and coated glass fiber is wound to form a cake of glass fiber, the forming tube comprising:

a plurality of paperboard plies spirally wound one upon another about an axis of the forming tube and adhered together to form a tubular body wall, wherein at least an outermost one of the plies comprises paperboard treated with a sizing compound so as to render the paperboard substantially impervious to liquid coating composition applied to the glass fiber but pervious to vapors generated during curing and drying of a cake of glass fiber.

6. A cake of glass fiber, comprising:

a glass fiber having a coating, the coating comprising a material that is applied to the glass fiber in liquid form and subsequently cured/dried, and a forming tube about which the glass fiber is wound to form the cake, wherein the forming tube comprises a tubular body wall having a plurality of openings formed through the body wall such that the forming tube is pervious to vapors generated when the cake is treated to cure/dry the coating, the openings having a diameter less than 0.1 inch.

7. The cake of glass fiber of claim 6, wherein the forming tube is plastic.

8. The cake of glass fiber of claim 6, wherein the body wall of the forming tube has a cylindrical outer surface apart from the presence of the openings.

9. A glass forming tube for receiving coated glass fiber wound thereon during production of the glass fiber, the forming tube comprising:

a tubular body wall formed of fibrous material, the body wall being pervious to vapors generated during drying or curing of coating material applied to the glass fiber.

10. The glass forming tube of claim 9, wherein the body wall comprises paperboard.

11. The glass forming tube of claim 10, wherein the paperboard is sized to render the body wall substantially impervious to liquid.

12. A glass forming tube for receiving coated glass fiber wound thereon during production of the glass fiber, the forming tube comprising:

a tubular body wall, the body wall having a plurality of openings formed therethrough such that the body wall is pervious to vapors generated during drying or curing of coating material applied to the glass fiber, the openings having a diameter less than 0.1 inch.

13. The glass forming tube of claim 12, wherein the forming tube is plastic.

14. The glass forming tube of claim 12, wherein the body wall has a cylindrical outer surface apart from the presence of the openings.

15. A method of producing glass fiber, comprising the steps of:

passing molten glass through a forming bushing to produce a continuous glass fiber, and cooling the glass fiber;

applying to the glass fiber a liquid coating composition;

winding the coated glass fiber about a forming tube to form a glass cake, the forming tube having a tubular body wall of fibrous material;

heating the glass cake to dry/cure the coating composition by volatilizing a component of the coating composition so as to produce vapors; and

wherein the forming tube is pervious to the vapors, and the vapors escape outwardly through the cake and also inwardly through the body wall of the forming tube.

16. A method of producing glass fiber, comprising the steps of:

passing molten glass through a forming bushing to produce a continuous glass fiber, and cooling the glass fiber;

applying to the glass fiber a liquid coating composition;

winding the coated glass fiber about a forming tube to form a glass cake, the forming tube having a tubular body wall defining a plurality of openings therethrough, the openings having a diameter less than 0.1 inch, the body wall having a cylindrical outer surface apart from the presence of the openings;

heating the glass cake to dry/cure the coating composition by volatilizing a component of the coating composition so as to produce vapors; and

wherein the forming tube is pervious to the vapors by virtue of the openings, and the vapors escape outwardly through the cake and also inwardly through the body wall of the forming tube.